

# PERSISTENCE



*To Graduation*

Monthly E-news from the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Student Success



## Feedback Sought on New Minimum Graduation Requirements

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is seeking public feedback on the state's new minimum high school graduation requirements. Kentucky Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis and KDE staff will hold four town hall forums across the state in September and October. One online forum will be held via webinar and feedback will be solicited electronically for those who cannot attend in person. The times, dates and locations of the town halls include:

- Sept. 23, 2019, 6-7 p.m. EST, Ohio Valley Education Cooperative (OVEC), 100 Alpine Rd., Shelbyville
- Oct. 10, 2019, 6-7 p.m. EST, Kentucky Valley Education Cooperative (KVEC), 412 Roy Campbell Drive, Hazard
- Oct. 15, 2019, 6-7 p.m. CST, Green River Educational Cooperative (GRECC), 230 Technology Way, Bowling Green
- Oct. 30, 2019, 5-6 p.m. CST, Hopkinsville Community College, 720 North Drive, Hopkinsville

Visit the [KDE website](#) for more information about the minimum high school graduation requirements.

## Chronic Absenteeism Resources

The Division of Student Success is pleased to provide you with resources in support of preventing and reducing chronic absenteeism. On our [Chronic Absenteeism webpage](#) you will find an infographic "[Chronic Absenteeism at a Glance](#)" to help inform staff, students and parents with an overview of the topic, as well as several "nudge" letters that you can customize and send to the caregivers of students. There is also [a quick reference card](#) on the Chronic Absenteeism report you can run for your school or district in IC. Additional resources including webinars and other infographics will be posted across this school year.

## Relevant Research, Practice Tips, and Briefs

**Self-Care Wheel for Teens:** Check out this [self-care wheel](#) for teens to support wellbeing in all dimensions of their lives.

**Notices and Wonders:** View this [three minute video](#) from Edutopia about boosting engagement.

**Suicide Prevention Memes Posters:** September is Suicide Prevention Month. See [these meme posters](#) that provides a space to include information specific to your school.

**Low Cost Middle School Intervention Improves Sense of Belonging:** [Read](#) about a recent study showing positive impacts of a very low cost activity.

**Teenage Brains and Closing Opportunity Gaps:** This [article](#) describes findings from The National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and medicine and describes why adolescents is a key time to address gaps. Related, this brief [article](#) from *Edsurge* discusses how brain elasticity relates to SEL.

**KY Students Renew Push for Child Abuse Curriculum in KY:** Sadly, Kentucky is rated #1 in Child Abuse. [Read](#) about some student's efforts to get a critical curriculum into our schools.

**Exploring Emotions in the Body:** Learn three performing-arts-inspired [activities](#) from *Mindful Schools*, and invite students to bring more awareness to the present moment, using their minds, hearts, and bodies.

**School Mental Health:** The insights offered in [Advancing Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems: Guidance From the Field](#) are designed to promote positive school climate and safety, strengthen social and emotional learning, and foster mental health and general well-being, while reducing the prevalence and severity of mental illness.

**SAGE Education Hub:** SAGE recently announced the launch of their new [Education hub](#). This hubs provide a plethora of useful resources for all audiences, from recently published special issues and free articles, to journal announcements and opportunities for free trials.

## Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

### Webinars

**Teaching Happiness - Mindset and STEM:** The Teaching Happiness webinar series explores the role of educators in empowering students to lead happy and fulfilling lives. Watch [this episode](#) to learn from Dr. Jo Boaler how a growth mindset in the classroom can contribute to a student's success. She'll also discuss the role that a growth mindset plays in a student's science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skill development, and how educators can adapt and optimize their learning plans. In addition, find out how classroom innovations from Microsoft provide opportunities for students to develop grit as well as other social and cognitive skills

**KDE Standards Rollout Webcast Series:** The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) will host a series of webcasts on the implementation of newly adopted standards geared toward district and school leaders. All webcasts will occur on Thursdays at 9 a.m. ET. You can access the live webcast by visiting the [KDE Media Portal](#) and clicking on the EdCast Video icon at the bottom of the page. The livestream will be on the home page. You can get questions answered during the webcasts using [GoSoapBox](#) with the access code OTL

**Solutions to the Dropout Crisis Webcasts:** *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* webcasts are always offered free of cost, and no registration is required. Tune in the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM ET for new [Solutions to the Dropout Crisis](#), where you can also find recordings of previous webcasts.

### Conferences and Activities

**Equity and Inclusion Conference at KY State University:** On October 1, the CREED Center at KSU will be hosting a conference to address SEL, understanding gaps, implicit bias and more. National speaker Dr. Adolph Brown III will be presenting. The cost to attend is \$125 and there is still time to [register](#).

**The KDE Safe Schools Regional Trainings:** The [Safe Schools Regional Trainings](#) will occur in the fall of 2019. The trainings will be in a 2-day format. You may [register](#) to attend any location that works best for you or only one day. If we have less than 30 people sign up for any location or training, we will cancel that offering. You will receive a confirmation email for each training. Please forward this registration to any other interested parties in your district. If you have any difficulties accessing the registration form, please call or email [Victoria Fields](#) at (502) 564-4772, ext. 4015.

**Day One** Full group: 8:30-3:30 (1 hour lunch). Topics include KDE Updates, Safe Schools Data, Suicide Prevention, Bullying Prevention, Child Trafficking, and Title IV, Part A, Safe and Healthy Students.

**Day Two** 8:30-3:30 (1 hour lunch). You can choose one of the three trainings offered: (1) Youth Mental Health First Aid (full day); (2) Trauma Informed Practices (full day) (3) Resiliency Skills for Educators: Techniques for Self-Care and Peer Support (1/2 day)/Cultivating Mindfulness for Educators (1/2 day).

**Apprenticeship Summit for Employers:** On Oct. 8, the Kentucky Department of Education will host the Inside TRACK to Youth Apprenticeships Summit at the Marriott Louisville East in Louisville. Targeted toward employers and business associations, the event will focus on the development of Kentucky's workforce pipeline utilizing the Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky (TRACK) youth apprenticeship program. The summit is designed to assist employers in connecting with high school students who are concentrating on the following career pathway sectors: agriculture, automotive, business and marketing, culinary arts/hospitality, early childhood education, healthcare, information technology, manufacturing and skilled trades. The event is free for employers and business associations, but registrations are limited by sector. Participants are encouraged to register before the Oct. 8 event by visiting the [event website](#).

**Social Emotional Preparation for Postsecondary Transitions Workshop:** As part of the *Building Bridges to College and Career* professional learning series from REL Appalachia this workshop is about a school's role in developing self-efficacy and growth mindset while gaining a clearer understanding of the link between postsecondary transitions and social emotional skills. EILA credit is available for participation in this event. This workshop will be on October 23 from 9:00-12 (ET) at Eastern KY University. You can [register](#) and for more information, please contact Jennifer Wotring at [jwotring@edvgroup.org](mailto:jwotring@edvgroup.org).

**National Dropout Prevention Conference:** The 2019 conference hosted by the National Dropout Prevention Center will take place October 5-8 in Denver, CO. The conference includes preconference sessions, keynote sessions, breakout sessions and networking opportunities. [Registration](#) is now open.

**Teaching American History: The American Founding:** This free seminar on November 8 (9am-3pm) offers an overview of the principles of the American Founding and the documents that embody them, especially the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution. These principles will be illuminated through a close study of the events of the American Revolution and the debates on the ratification of the Constitution. Dr. Jason Stevens, Professor of Political Science at Ashland University, will lead the seminar. Grades 6-12. Five hours PD credit. [Learn more and register.](#)

**Kentucky Counseling Association:** The Kentucky Counseling Association Conference will be held on November 13-15 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Louisville, KY. The conference theme is Celebrating Human Resiliency. In addition to breakout sessions, there will be 3 hour and 6 hour workshops offered. For information and registration please visit the [KCA conference page.](#)

**Kentucky Association for Psychology in the Schools (KAPS):** The [KAPS Fall conference](#) will be held November 13-15. Registration will be open soon. The [call for proposals](#) is currently open until August 30<sup>th</sup>.

**KDE Evaluation Training for Administrators:** The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is the official provider for the 2019-2020 Initial Certified Evaluation Training for administrators newly assigned to the role of evaluator of certified personnel. The two-day training, including the assessment, is required per KRS 156.557 and 704 KAR 3:370. All new evaluators of certified personnel are required to attend. Visit the [Principal Partnership Project website](#) for information about dates and locations, and to register.

**KDE Project AWARE 2: Trauma Informed Care for Educators and School Personnel 2019 – 2020 Learning Collaborative Registration Open:** The Project AWARE Trauma Informed Care for Educators and School Personnel Learning Collaborative offers participants in-depth knowledge about and opportunity to apply trauma informed care in education in their school settings. There will be three different Learning Collaboratives held during 2019-2020 across the state. Participating teams from schools or districts will attend three (3) face-to-face learning sessions, develop a plan for starting to implement trauma informed practices in their schools, and have an opportunity to participate in online Learning Consultation Calls throughout the school year. All participants will also have access to an online platform to share ideas and resources and technical assistance and consultation through the Center on Trauma and Children.

**Participants in the Project AWARE TICE Learning Collaborative will:**

- understand the types of trauma exposure school age children experience
- recognize the signs and symptoms of traumatic stress
- learn the effects of trauma on the developing brain
- appreciate the impact of trauma on cognitive, social, emotional and behavioral functioning
- learn and practice school-based strategies to build resilience and support improved self-regulation to mitigate the negative effects of trauma exposure on students
- understand the impact of secondary trauma exposure on school staff

- develop realistic goals and plans for implementing trauma informed approaches in their schools and problem-solve barriers to implementation and sustainability in real-time
- prepare to meet the requirements of the School Safety and Resilience Act:
  - creating a trauma informed team
  - developing a plan (before July 1, 2021) for implementing trauma informed approaches

### **Recommendations for participation:**

- Teams should be comprised of at least 2 and up to 5 school or district staff
- Strong teams are interdisciplinary and ideally are multidisciplinary and include Teachers, School Counselors, School Psychologists, School Social Workers, Administrative Leaders and School Safety or Resource Officers
- Teams should plan to meet regularly throughout the year
- Schools should grant release time to all team members to attend face-to-face and online Learning Sessions
- Teams should be sanctioned by the Senior Leadership of the school or district and supported in their efforts to implement trauma informed practices

**Learning Collaborative Schedule and Locations:** There will be three different learning collaboratives this school year, across the commonwealth. Learning Session 1 & Learning Session 2 will occur in Fall, 2019, in the designated locations across the state. Learning Session 3 will bring all participants together in Lexington (March, 2020):

### **Central Kentucky Learning Collaborative:**

- Learning Session 1: September 26-27, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - Taylor County UK Extension Office, Campbellsville, KY
- Learning Session 2: November 20, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - Taylor County UK Extension Office, Campbellsville, KY
- Learning Session 3: March 5, 2020, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
  - Lexington Center, Lexington, KY

**Registration Deadline is September 20, 2019. Click [here](#) to register.**

### **Western Kentucky Learning Collaborative:**

- Learning Session 1: October 21- 22, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - Caldwell County UK Extension Office, Princeton, KY
- Learning Session 2: November 19, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - Caldwell County UK Extension Office, Princeton, KY
- Learning Session 3: March 5, 2020, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
  - Lexington Center, Lexington, KY

**Registration Deadline is October 11, 2019. Click [here](#) to register.**

### **Eastern Kentucky Learning Collaborative:**

- Learning Session 1: October 15-16, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - Bath County UK Extension Office, Owingsville, KY
- Learning Session 2: November 13, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - Bath County UK Extension Office, Owingsville, KY
- Learning Session 3: March 5, 2020, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
  - Lexington Center, Lexington, KY

**Registration Deadline is October 4, 2019. Click [here](#) to register.**

**Advance registration of all team members is required; each participant must register individually.** There is no charge for participation in the Project AWARE TICE Learning Collaborative and electronic materials are included; travel, meal, lodging and any other related expenses will be the responsibility of the participating districts.

**We are grateful for you and your work!**

If you would like to contribute any information (resources, celebrations, etc.) to this enews, please email [judi.vanderhaar@education.ky.gov](mailto:judi.vanderhaar@education.ky.gov). Also, please share this link with your colleagues who might be interested in subscribing to the [Persistence to Graduation listserv](#) (right click to subscribe)